



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 7410-2900

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NEWS RELEASE

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Eisenhower's Nuclear Policies and Their Legacies

An interdisciplinary conference on the Eisenhower Administration's policies and their legacies concerning nuclear power, WMDs, and national security, will be held in Abilene and Manhattan, KS. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, and the Kansas State University Institute for Military History and 20th Century Studies will sponsor the two-day conference, along with grants from the Eisenhower Foundation, the McCormick Tribune Foundation and KABI Radio 1560 AM.

In the post-9/11 world, the threats to national security and personal safety from weapons of mass destruction are greater than ever. National policies concerning defense against nuclear weapons and other WMDs have become an issue of immediate concern for all Americans, but such policies often have their roots deep in the twentieth century, particularly in the early Cold War era. Among the first policymakers to confront a world forever altered by the development of nuclear power and other potential WMDs, the Eisenhower administration had to develop principles, strategies, and guidelines for preserving American safety and the world peace in the face of terrible new possibilities for destruction and suffering. This conference aims to examine and explore those threats and policies, the mindset and cultural milieu they created, and their legacies for Americans in the 21st century.

Those persons presenting at the Eisenhower Library on Thursday, April 28, are Jack Holl, Kansas State University, "Ike and the Bomb: The Foundation of Eisenhower's Nuclear Diplomacy;" Saki Dockrill, King's College, London, "Massive Retaliation in Strategy and Diplomacy;" David Walker, Boise State University, "Eisenhower and the Nuclear Transformation of the U.S. Armed Forces: A Revolution in Military Affairs;" Cargill Hall, National Reconnaissance Office, "Thinking Disaster: U.S. Government Initiatives to Meet the Threat of Nuclear War;" Sergei Khrushchev, Brown University, "Eisenhower and Khrushchev: Armament and Disarmament;" Michael Amundson, Northern Arizona University, "From Uranium Mines to Atlas Missiles: Atomic Culture in the 1950s;" with the keynote being presented at 4 p.m. by former President Eisenhower's granddaughter, Susan Eisenhower, "Establishing the Nuclear Parameters: The Eisenhower Legacy." A luncheon is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. and a reception and museum tour at 5:30 p.m.

Sessions on Friday, April 29 in the KSU Alumni Center Ballroom in Manhattan begin at 8:15 a.m. with Justin Kastner, Kansas State University, “Endemic Fear of Disease, Trade Disputes, and the Professionalization of Food Security;” Jason Ackleson, New Mexico State University, “Non-Nuclear WMD: Historical Lessons and Contemporary Challenges;” David Franz, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, “The Evolution of U.S. Biodefense Policy;” Elaine Tyler May, University of Minnesota, “Danger and Safety in the National Security State;” General Donn Starry, “Fifty Years at the Business End of the Bomb;” Alex Burkart, Office of Nuclear Energy Affairs, Department of State, “The Legacies of President Eisenhower’s Atoms for Peace Proposal;” William Tsutsui, University of Kansas, “Gamma Rays, DDT, and Giant Insects: Screening Unseen Horrors in the 1950s;” and John Wefeld, President, Kansas State University, “Eisenhower’s Nuclear Policies.” Following a luncheon, a four-person roundtable will conclude the conference. Participants are Donn Starry, Sergei Khrushchev, Elaine Tyler May, and Cargill Hall.

The conference is free and open to the public. Those attending are invited to join the conference participants for the luncheons and Thursday reception, for which there is a fee. For further information, consult the Institute for Military History and 20th Century Studies Web page at <http://www.ksu.edu/history/institute/>, or contact Dr. Mark Parillo, Kansas State University, 785-532-0374.